IRONDALE NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2015

Bark Lake Cultural Developments

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Irondale Church for your next function?
Rental Information Contact
Glenda 705-447-2679 or
Carol 705-457-8438

Irondale Community Centre

Advisory Committee
of
Minden Hills Council

centre@IrondaleOntario.ca

~Rentals~
Rentals for the centre or the big tent can be booked thru Barry Simmons
705-447-2380

Looking for more information on a healthier diet?

Monica Keefer
705-455-2253

http://
mkeefer.canada.juiceplus.com

The **Mine Tour** on Saturday August 22 was a huge success. Twenty six brave people followed George Simmons down the road and through the bush. Literally through the bush. George gave snippets of Irondale's history to whet the appetite for the walk, then away they went. Some had to really move to keep up with George.

More pictures on page five.

Community Centre Annual Dinner & Loonie Auction Evening

Gooderham's MacAusland Centre was the place to be on October 3rd. The doors opened at 5pm with dinner served after 6. The kitchen crew did a fabulous job of ham, scallop potatoes, veggie and dinner roll. Dessert was homemade Apple Brown Betty and ice cream.
All of this for $15 per person.
There was the usual tea/coffee available. A cash bar offered cold beer and wine.
After dinner entertainment was a Loonie Auction. A great array of items had been donated by many different businesses and individuals.
Esther Graham's items always garner a lot of loonies, everyone wanting to own one of her hand knitted sweaters. Many times her knitted items raise more money for the cause than a bottle of liquor or a tandem load of gravel!
The Irondale Community Centre committee is very grateful for the various donations, the loonies spent and those that came to share the evening with them.

Congratulations! to the Newlyweds

Jessica Crego and Gregory Callaghan were married in the little white church in Irondale on Thanksgiving Saturday. The sun shone bright and warm on the celebration. Fabulous day.
Looking at the photos, you can see the fun that they had.
CONGRATULATIONS
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Callaghan!

Geo Tour comment

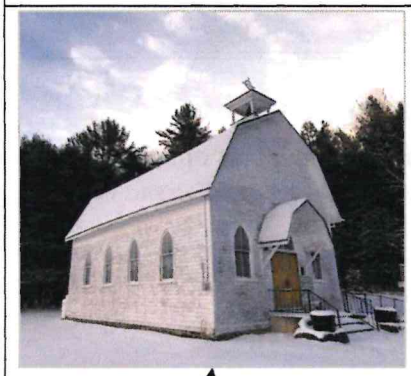
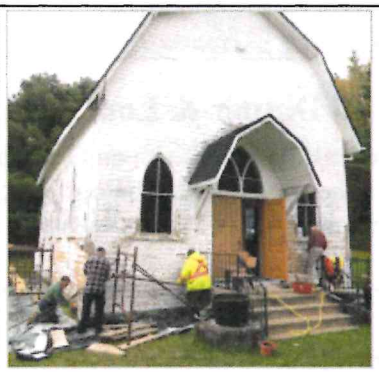
The following is copied verbatim from a note left with Mary Barker regarding the highly successful geocaching tour launched this year.

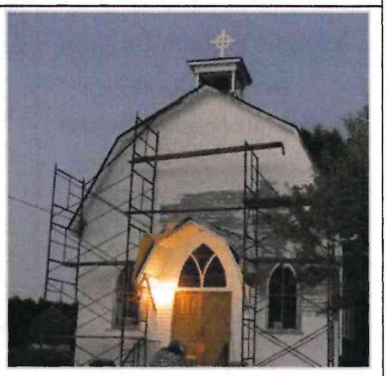
Ever since seeing the Geo-Tour on geocaching.com, I have wanted to give it a go! Mostly, because I wanted the geo-tour attribute. I convinced, JayJayCache to join me (didn't take much), and today we started our quest of 100 caches in 2 days. We really weren't sure what to expect, but with 1,875 favourite points on 100 caches (average 19 points per cache) we knew we would be in for a great tour, and weren't disappointed, at all. I currently have 106 favourite points, and over 1/2 of these points will be dropped on the caches of the tour.

This tour has really made the whole area the true, 'Geocaching Capital of Canada!". Awesome work Tupper T. Turtle."

Cache find #4. This was the cache where we learned that everyone in the area was well aware of these cache placements. No sneaking or stealth necessary for the majority of these caches. One of the community members, was scrapping and painting the front of this old church, a lot of work, and asked no questions (I think she knew), but was quick to welcome us to the community. So nice.

Carol Simmons' note: We have had many visit the Irondale Church property, seeking the hidden cache. The geo-cachers are a friendly bunch, very mindful of the properties they visit. We have had some looking for the cache on Sunday mornings during our service. Even when in groups, they quietly go about their chore, not interrupting at all.



From this ... ... **to this**

A big **THANK YOU** to George Simmons and the plethora of individuals that offered assistance in scraping, priming & painting the church exterior. I know there were more of you than I have names for.

THANK YOU. It was a very long haul.

The project was started mid May and finished the week before Thanksgiving, wearing out many volunteers along the way.

As you can see from the pictures, the front of the church and the garden side of the church were clean and white — in time for Jessica Crego and Greg Callaghan's wedding, October 10th.

What's the topic around the card table this Wednesday? Join Us And Find Out. 7pm $2 pp Irondale Community Centre

Pictures by Kevin Pepper

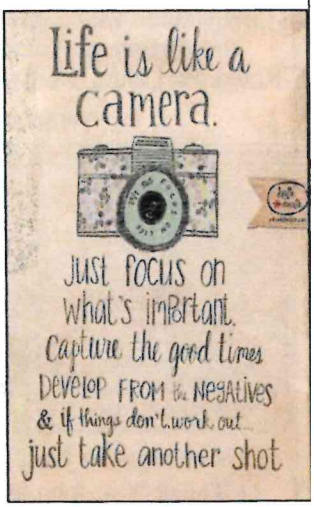
SDLCA's 48th Canoe Race headed down Salerno Lake once again. Sunday August 2nd was a gorgeous day for the race. Race registration started at noon at the boat launch. BBQ, Games and Awards started at 2:30pm at the Irondale Community Centre. The ball diamond area was utilized for games. Kids of all ages participated in the egg toss, three-legged race and others. Rain temporarily interrupted the awards ceremony, everyone running into the Community Centre for cover from the downpour.

Check www.sdlca.ca - winners names & times.

A giggle for your funny bone ...

A cowboy, who just moved to Wyoming from Texas, walks into a bar and orders three mugs of Bud. He sits in the back of the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn. When he finishes them, he comes back to the bar and orders three more. The bartender approaches and tells the cowboy, "You know, a mug goes flat after I draw it. It would taste better if you bought one at a time."

The cowboy replies, "Well, you see, I have two brothers. One is an Airborne Ranger, the other is a Navy Seal, both serving overseas somewhere. When we all left our home in Texas, we promised that we'd drink this way to remember the days when we drank together. So I'm drinking one beer for each of my brothers and one for myself." The bartender admits that this is a nice custom, and leaves it there. The cowboy becomes a regular in the bar, and always drinks the same way. He orders three mugs and drinks them in turn. One day, he comes in and only orders two mugs. All the regulars take notice and fall silent. When he comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says, "I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences on your loss." The cowboy looks quite puzzled for a moment, then a light dawns in his eyes and he laughs. "Oh, no, everybody's just fine," he explains. "It's just that my wife and I joined the Baptist Church and I had to quit drinking. Hasn't affected my brothers though...."


Life is like a camera.
Just focus on what's important.
Capture the good times
Develop from the negatives
& if things don't work out
just take another shot

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COFFEE BREAK®

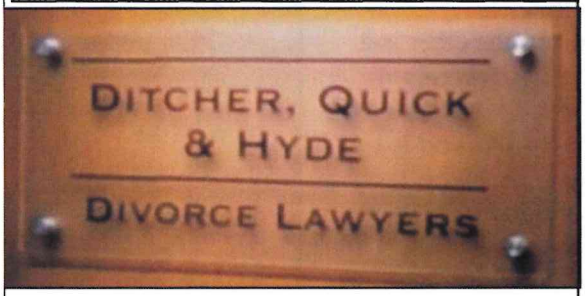
Alzheimer Society

Irondale held a
Coffee Break for the Alzheimer Society
on Sat., Sept 26 at their
Community Corn Roast.
$70 was raised for the
Alzheimer Society, the amount represents
the generosity of those present.

Carol Simmons took her 'famous'
butter tarts to work with her.
Staff at the Haliburton Hospital
purchased a butter tart for a
$2 donation to the Alzheimer Society.
An additional $ 224 was raised.

Therefore -
an envelope with $ 294 has been delivered to
the Alzheimer Society of Peterborough,
Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland & Haliburton

THANK YOU!!



Can a Divorce Firm have a better name?
Thank You John Storr for the giggle.

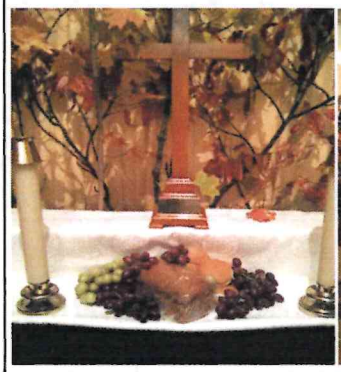
PUMPKIN CHEESE BREAD

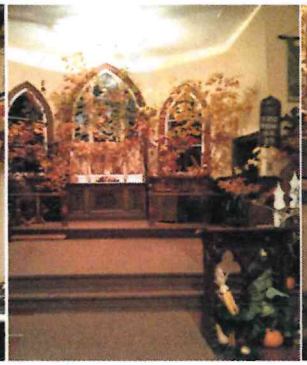
2 1/2 cups sugar	2 tsps baking soda
1/2 cup margarine	1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 (8 oz) cream cheese	1/4 tsp ground cloves
4 eggs	3 1/2 cups flour
1 (16 oz) can pumpkin	1 tsp salt
	1/2 tsp baking powder
	1 cup chopped nuts

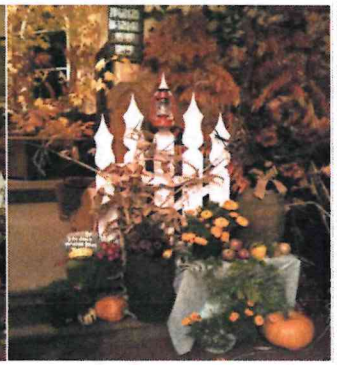
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a mixing bowl, combine sugar, margarine, and cream cheese, mixing at medium speed until well blended. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each one. Blend in pumpkin. Add the combined dry ingredients of baking soda, cinnamon, cloves, flour, salt & baking powder mixing just until moistened. Fold in the nuts. Pour into two greased and floured 9 x 5 inch loaf pans. Bake for 1 hour or until it tests done. Cool 5 minutes and remove from pans.

Thanksgiving Service

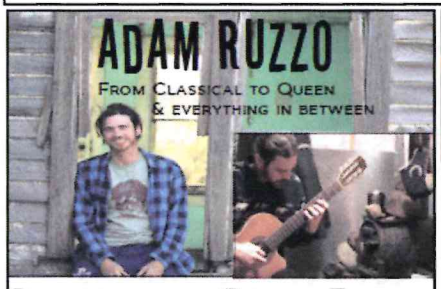
October's long weekend weather could not have been nicer. The colours were not as bright as other year's, however the roads were busy with many taking the opportunity for a drive in the countryside, admiring the vistas.
Sunday morning found a few of us getting the church decorated for the traditional 7pm service.
George Simmons, Fred Simmons, John & Emmerson Benedictus gathered a couple truck loads of coloured branches. Jane Wilson, Arlene Simmons and Carol Simmons arranged the branches, vegetables and other props within the church walls. There was décor set at the front door as well. What do you think of our work?







Over 40 people shared the 7pm Thanksgiving Service with us. Many coming between their main course and their dessert. Gives the body a chance to make room for the yummy pies etc.
Pastor Mark Penman did a fabulous job with the Parable of the Great Banquet. *(Luke 14: v 15-35)* Mark has a real knack for getting the points across in his sermons. He uses modern examples we can all relate to as well as great stories, enabling all to understand the words in the Bible.
Coffee & tea were served after the service in the adjoining hall. Many of those attending the service chose to forgo the refreshments after the last hymn. The reason?....the Blue Jays were about to play their third game in the World Series. The few of us left enjoyed lively conversations.



COMMUNITY CORN ROAST
SATURDAY, SEPT 26 — 7PM
ELM ROAD, IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT

Many braved the cool weather and enjoyed the music of Adam Ruzzo while munching on corn on the cob, hotdogs and SMILE cookies.

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Adam sold his cd's that evening as well.
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You may have noticed ....

the various advertisements in this issue.
We are now taking business card sized advertisements
in an attempt to off set the newsletter printing & postage.
We have 200+ sent by email plus 200 sent through Canada Post.
For more information on how you can participate
call/text Carol 705-457-1580
or email historical@IrondaleOntario.ca

Mine Tour ... continued from page 1

"Brad & I really enjoyed the tour especially with George as Guide. It was interesting to see the old wooden culverts and how well they have 'stood-the-test-of-time'. We often think modern man (us) is much smarter and more innovated than our fore-fathers, but considering the limited tools and resources available they managed to meet their challenges in what we would consider simple ways. Yet, the wooden Irondale culverts are still working the way they were intended more than 100 years later. I do believe modern mining is a lot safer and more comfortable for the miners than it was for the miners who worked in the iron 'trenches and pits' in Irondale!

Pictures taken by Margaret & Brad Clayton and Carol Simmons

Irondale Calendar of Events

Hang this page on your refrigerator or next to your calendar so you don't miss out!

Jan 23 — Movie Night, held at the Irondale Community Centre. Admission by donation.

30 — Turkey Dinner, held at the Irondale Community Centre. Admission by donation.

Feb 27 — Dine with the Danes, held at the Irondale Community Centre. $20 per person. 4:30 to 7:30 Experience real Danish food, music and stories. Proceeds help preserve Irondale's history.

Mar 20 — Pancake Breakfast, held at the Irondale Community Centre. Invite your friends or family to hop down and join you for breakfast. Easter Bunny may pay an early visit. $15 per person.

Apr 9 — Fish N' Fowl Feast, held at the Gooderham Community Centre Buffet dinner offering several kinds of fish with potatoes, vegetables, salad, beverage and dessert. Poultry will be served for those that don't relish fish. Loonie auction action after dessert. $20 per person.

May 21 — Victorian Luncheon, held at Mansfield's, 16 Highland Gate Blvd., Minden. We have changed things up from previous years. New menu (not the usual fancy sandwiches) - still on china dishes. You will want to get your tickets early.

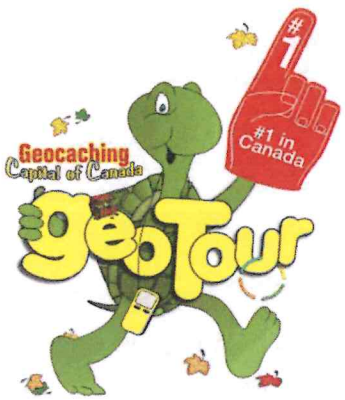
The GeoTour went live in May 2015.

The Geocaching Capital of Canada GeoTour with over 3200 favourite points continues to be number one in Canada and is the 4th most popular of 61 GeoTours worldwide. And even though summer is behind us Geocachers are still out and about in our countryside. Actually, fall is the perfect time to geocache with ideals temperatures for hiking and no bugs.

At the end of August our GeoTour article was published in the Geocaching.com newsletter. It was viewed by Geocachers within a 500 mile radius of London, Ontario—approximately 172,000 geocachers. The Geocaching Capital of Canada website shows that the newsletter article has peaked the curiosity of Geocachers. In the first 3 days of September our website had 925 visits, 1613 page views and audience size of 844.

Since its launch in May the Tour has brought hundreds of people to the area, from such places as North Bay, Timmins, Ottawa, Kingston, Kitchener, Calgary, Vancouver, Great Britain and Germany. A couple visiting from Switzerland had two things they wanted to do in Ontario—visit Niagara Falls and do the Geocaching Capital of Canada GeoTour.

An email was received recently from Geocachers in Michigan USA wanting to know about accommodations. Joanne Vanier and I have sifted through over 9000 emails that the Geocachers have posted. Many of these logs show that Geocachers are supporting the local economy. The front line businesses, accommodators, eateries and retails are seeing immediate results, especially those that made the effort to welcome Geocachers. Other businesses will hopefully see future benefits. When someone moves to the area it is often because of some past connection—visits to a friend's cottage, camping as a child, etc.
This GeoTour has already introduced 100s of people to the area. Perhaps some will relocate a business here or buy a home. There are now hundreds of visitors who know more about the area than some of the locals.



To compliment the GeoTour, GeoArt will be introduced next spring 2016, with yet another 100 caches to be found. GeoArt places caches in such a way that their locations form a picture when viewed on the map. This new series of caches will be in a concentrated area in Tory Hill but in order to promote all of the Geocaching Capital of Canada, geocachers will have to visit all seven of the communities to gather information and solve puzzles.

Many thanks to the residents of Irondale for warmly welcoming Geocachers. Our visitors have frequently commented on the hospitality they received while in the area. If you happen to be at the church look for the "Tea with Tupper" cache located out back and peek in on the GeoTour's mascot Tupper T. Turtle to ensure he is comfortable for his long winter's nap.

Favourite point : see below www.geocachingcapitalofcanada.com www.geocaching.com

Favourite Points explained — A basic membership on Geocaching.com is free. A Premium Membership is $30.00 US, per year. Being a premium member comes with perks. One of those perks is "Favourite Points." For every 10 caches that a premium member finds, Geocaching.com gives the geocacher ONE favourite point that he/she can then award to any cache that the geocacher deems outstanding, exceptional, creative, in short, well worth finding.
So, to summarize, while lots of Geocachers have been finding our caches, not all are able to give favourite points. Some are simply members, with no points to give, some are premium members but with only a few finds, therefore they have only a few favourite points to hand out and some are geocachers with 1000s of finds, therefore lots of favourite points, but are only allowed to award ONE favourite point per cache.

We have had lots of comments like these from geocachers:

- *"Day two, continuing the Geotour with Bug Finders. More great caches. We love the creative effort put into these caches. Too many favourites not enough favourite points. Thanks again to Tupper T. Turtle and everyone that helped create and place these caches."*
- "Another favourite but no favourites left to use!"
- *"This cache was in the top three (could be #1) of the entire series of GCC caches. I liked it so much I came back with others - twice, If I could give it multiple favourite points, I would!"*
- "We really enjoyed finding and laughing about this cache and all the kidding that resulted from it. I'd give two favourite points if possible." Stabeez 5350 finds

Submitted by Mary Barker of Agnew General Store in Wilberforce

Christmas Sales are springing up everywhere.

★ Nov 6 to 8 and Nov 13 to 15
Mansfields and Friends Treasures. The house (over 12 rooms) is decorated with most items for sale. Drop by 16 Highland Gate Blvd in Minden (just off Deep Bay Rd) Some items raising funds for Irondale's history, some for the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation. Call 705-286-1340 for hours.

★ Sunday November 29 11 am to 3 pm
Minden Community Centre's Sale. You can find lots handcrafted items to give as gifts or keep for yourself. The Kitchen will be open offering sandwiches, soup, chili, desserts & beverages. The kitchen profit goes to support Irondale's history.

★ Sunday December 6 11 am to 3 pm
Kinmount's Legion Sale. You will find ideal gifts, décor and Carol's yummy butter tarts and mini Christmas cakes for sale. Christmas music, country raffle and special guest Anya the Celtic Physic. Book your appointment time with Anya for your reading by calling Raquel at 705-488-3191.
Book early, Anya is popular!

It is truly amazing what has been done by this little community!!
Thank you for leading the way for others to follow!!!!
Elva Bates

Nativity Pageant — December 5
Two sittings — 5pm & 7pm
Admission by Donation

Dozens of people have been cast for the various parts
Shepherds, Sheep, Wise Men, Mary, Joseph, Angels

Guest artists
Jane Siberry, Gord Kidd, Wendy Connelly and more

St. Paul's Anglican Church, Invergordon Ave., Minden

October Pot Luck Dinner

A good number of people came out for the October Pot Luck Dinner held at the Irondale Community Centre. There was a great selection of really good dishes. Salads, hot & cold vegetables, home made bread!, pickles, three or four kinds of hot meat dishes and a couple kinds of potato dishes.
For dessert, the Graham Trifle and the Neville Trifle — both highly sought after. There was pie, cheesecake and ice cream as well. Where else can you get such a smorgasbord?
Glenda generally hosts a Pot Luck once a month.
Watch & listen for the date and come to the next one!

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76 TO 81 WEIGHTED KEYS,
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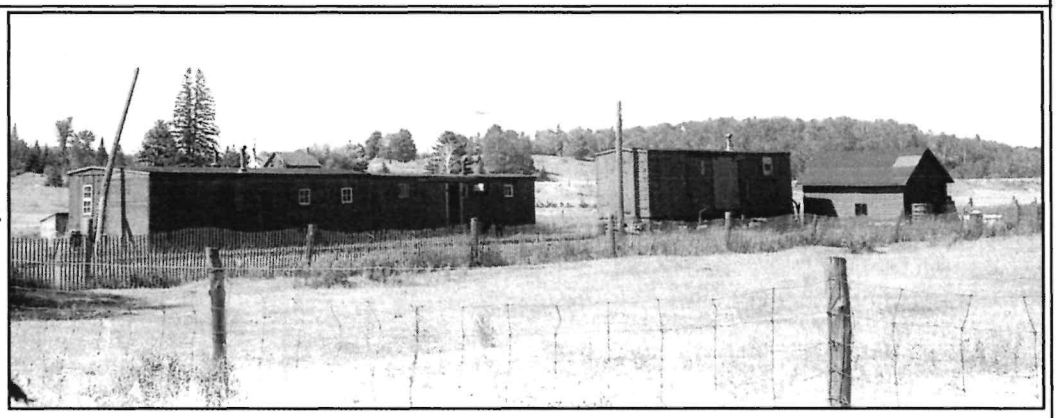
REWARD:

Our genuine heartfelt appreciation

Box Cars ...

The box cars at Irondale measured 36.0 ft inside length, 8.6 ft width, 8.0 ft inside height for a total of 2472 cubic feet and was built February 1919.

The Section Foreman Tool House was on the north side of the IB&O Railway main line, running east to Bancroft. Also a 'shim-shack' on the east side of the Tool house.



At the 'west end of the yard' (toward Howland Junction) was a 'switch stand' for a 'rail siding' on the south side of the IB&O railway line running east. This was a lengthy siding. At the east end of the siding—almost opposite the tool house was the Two 36 foot box cars for CNR dwellings. About 50 feet west of these two box cars was another 36 foot box car on the siding for a 'waiting room' and storage shed for freight and express.

There was a lengthy siding west of the Box Car used as the waiting room. This was the 'public team track area' for loading and unloading railway cars!

The first box car for a waiting room had a set of steps at the east end to enter the waiting room of the box car. There was a small caboose stove for heating the waiting room in the cold weather. Percy Proctor was Post Master and also met the train—as he handled the mail too! Percy used the waiting room. The car had a partition between the waiting room and freight shed.

The two 36 foot box cars east of the waiting room were attached by a 'vestibule (or closed in walkway) with a door. The first box car had been partitioned into three bedrooms (just several small windows and NO exterior doors). There was a box stove in the 'master' bedroom (1st bedroom) to heat the sleeping quarters. In the 36 foot box car for living quarters there was one door for entering and leaving—with a set of steps. These steps were on the North side of the box car—in the 8ft between the siding and the main line! The cook stove was in the east end of the box car and the one large dining table was nearby. The IB&O railway company telephone was mounted on the end of the west wall of the box car. There was a table with necessary Railway and Commercial Telegraph forms etc. Our Mother was the RS (Railway Service & Commercial Telegraph Operator. Also, our mother was caretaker of the waiting room and freight shed.

Last but not least—we had a Root Cellar on the north side of the track, built from used railway ties and dirt with a door and steps. This root cellar kept everything cool—even in extreme hot summer weather.

I believe Michael McAlpine was the Section Foreman when the station burned in Irondale and later moved to Bancroft. 'Mike' was the Snow Plow Foreman on the IB&O from Bancroft to Howland Junction. I do not know if Charles Woermke & family succeeded Mike McAlpine, but my father Archie Schrader succeeded Charles Woermke who retired in September 1942. A Mr. Smith succeeded my father as Section Foreman at Irondale in 1943.

Submitted by Grenville 'Gren' Schrader

Grenville Schrader lived with his family in the CN Box Cars in Irondale in 1942/43.
He was trained in Telegraphy and Railroading in Kinmount in 1948/49 and daily worked on the IB&O Railway 'Crank and Holler' telephone handling telegrams from Irondale through to Tory Hill, Gooderham, Wilberforce, Highland Grove and Baptiste. He worked numerous CNR Agencies on the Belleville and London Divisions.

We will enjoy more of Grenville's stories in upcoming issues.